

**MINUTES OF THE
LOWER BEAR RIVER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ANNUAL MEETING
January 28, 1999
Bridgerland Vocational Center, Logan, Utah**

The annual meeting was called to order at 10:30 am with Charles Holmgren conducting. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked for a reading of the minutes by John Larsen of the Division of Water Rights. There were no corrections to be made to the minutes so a motion to accept them as read was made by Joe Larsen, seconded by Larry Pitcher, motion passed.

Mr. Lee Sim of the Division of Water Rights then read the financial report for the past year. A motion was then made by Dave Styer to accept the financial report, seconded by Carly Burton, the voting was unanimous.

Terry Gnehm then gave his commissioner's report for the year. Terry indicated that all nineteen pumpers are taking the water allowed. The 1998 spring and summer seasons were unusually wet and because of all the precipitation, very little water was used through the irrigation season from the river. Terry ran the canals fuller this year because of all the water but much of the water ran back to the river. There were some corrections to be made to the commissioner's report on pages 22 - 25. They should read 1998 Summary instead of 1994 summary. And the figures in the summary on page 25 for the West Wheelon Canal should be shifted one month because there was no water in the canal in April. Terry said he used more power meters this year to calculate flows pumped.

Charles Holmgren expressed appreciation to Terry for a job well done during the irrigation season this past year. A motion was then made by Dave Styer to accept the commissioner's report as corrected, seconded by Lee Reese, all voted in favor.

Lee then discussed budget proposals for next year. He mentioned the law requiring bonding of the commissioners was rescinded last year during the legislative session, therefore an amount need not be budgeted for the \$50.00 bonding expense from here forward. After some discussion the budget for 1999 was as follows: Salary \$15,700.00 Social Security \$1,201.00, Retirement \$2,473.00, Travel Expense \$1,600.00, insurance premiums \$4,790.00, Telephone \$300.00, committee expense \$800.00, Annual report \$726.00, Miscellaneous Expense \$154.00 for a total budget of \$27,744.00. The assessment was set at \$26,250.00. A motion to approve the budget and assessment was made by Fred Selman, seconded by Darwin Allen, all approved.

Carly Burton then made a motion to keep Terry Gnehm as commissioner for 1999, this was seconded by Larry Roundy, the voting was unanimous.

Recommendations were then called for the 1999 committee chair and members. Dave Styler made a motion to retain Jim Watterson as a committee member to represent the Amalga Cutler water users and to have the remaining members, including Charles Holmgren as chairman, to remain in their current positions by acclamation. Wayne Cardon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lee Sim then discussed a proposal being made by the Division of Water Rights to have commissioners appointed for a period of four years instead of every year with the thought being that

this will bring better stability to the commissioner's position. It takes several years for a commissioner to learn his or her responsibilities and knowledge of how the river is to be operated. Activities of the commissioner would still be reviewed each year and if the commissioner is performing satisfactorily, he would continue on for the next year. If the majority of the water users wish to have the commissioner replaced, then a new commissioner could be put in place by majority vote.

Carly Burton then gave his summary report of the operation of Bear Lake last year. He said the current snowpack is at 92% of normal. Last year the Bear River basin experienced remarkable runoff. Irrigation needs were fully met and system operation was driven by flood control needs from Bear Lake to Corinne. Releases were carefully monitored throughout the year, especially during the spring runoff period. With the lower snow pack this year, Pacific Corp will be monitoring conditions closely in the weeks ahead. Adjustments will be made, depending on changing snowpack conditions and runoff forecasts. The goal will be to provide a full irrigation supply and to minimize any flooding below Bear Lake. In order to achieve both objectives, releases from the lake will be required for the remainder of the winter. Carly also mentioned he is replacing Earl Staker as executive director of the Utah Water User's Association.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Those attending the meeting:

Name	Representing
William Atkin	Division of Water Rights
Lee Sim	Division of Water Rights
John S. Larsen	Division of Water Rights
Bob Fotheringham	Division of Water Rights
Fred Selman	Pumpers below Cutler
Charles Holmgren	Bear River Canal Company
Mark L. Rigby	Small Irrigators
Jim Watterson	Amalga and Cutler pumpers
Howard Andersen	Pumpers
Darwin R. Allen	Bear River Canal Company
Wayne R. Cardon	Benson Bear Lake Irrigation Company
Larry Roundy	Irrigators
Joe Larsen	West Cache Irrigation Company
D. Wesley Roundy	Irrigators from West Side
Larry Pitcher	Bear River
Lee Reese	Irrigators
Sherri Dorius	Bear River Pumper
Rodney Munk	Bear River Pumper
Earl L. Petersen	Lower Bear River Pumper
Scott Petersen	Lower Bear River Pumper
Jim Christensen	Bear River Water Conservancy District
Dave Styer	Irrigator